

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Letters Abroad

By Walter E. Myer

THOUSANDS of high school students in the United States are eager to write to young people of their own ages who live in foreign countries, but in the past it has been difficult to obtain enough names of students abroad to take part in an international correspondence program. There has been some writing back and forth, but it has been on a small scale.

THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and its associated publications have taken up this problem and are now able to make it possible for large numbers of their readers to get into communication with foreign students. Our organization, the Civic Education Service, Inc., is cooperating with the International Friendship League, an agency which has acquired an extensive list of foreign boys and girls who want to correspond with American students. The League has the official sanction of a number of the governments in Europe, and it cooperates with our own State Department. For many years it has been the outstanding agency for the promotion of international correspondence.

We want to get correspondence started as soon as possible, and the readers of this paper may take steps immediately toward making a connection with friends in foreign lands. If you wish to engage in this program, you may do so by sending 50 cents to the International Friendship League, 40 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts. You will then be a member of the League, and you will obtain the names of three foreign students with whom you may correspond. No further payment will be required, however long you may continue the correspondence.

If you write regularly to a friend in Europe or elsewhere, you will not only enjoy the pleasures of this friendship, but you will learn a great deal about foreign lands. You will find out many facts about how foreign peoples live—about their homes, about their schools, about many aspects of life in their countries.

You will also make your contributions, telling the foreign students about your own schools and your home and community life. Through foreign correspondence, American

young people can be brought in close contact with young people of foreign countries. All youths involved will come to understand one another and this will contribute to the peace of the world.

Your own studies of foreign nations will mean a great deal to you if—in addition to what you read in your papers, magazines, and books—you learn what friends in other lands can tell you. We recommend that all the readers of this paper take steps immediately toward getting this important and interesting work started.

In writing for names, please send postal note or money order—not coin or stamps. Remember that the 50-cent fee, about the price of one movie—will give you friendships which you may enjoy for years to come.

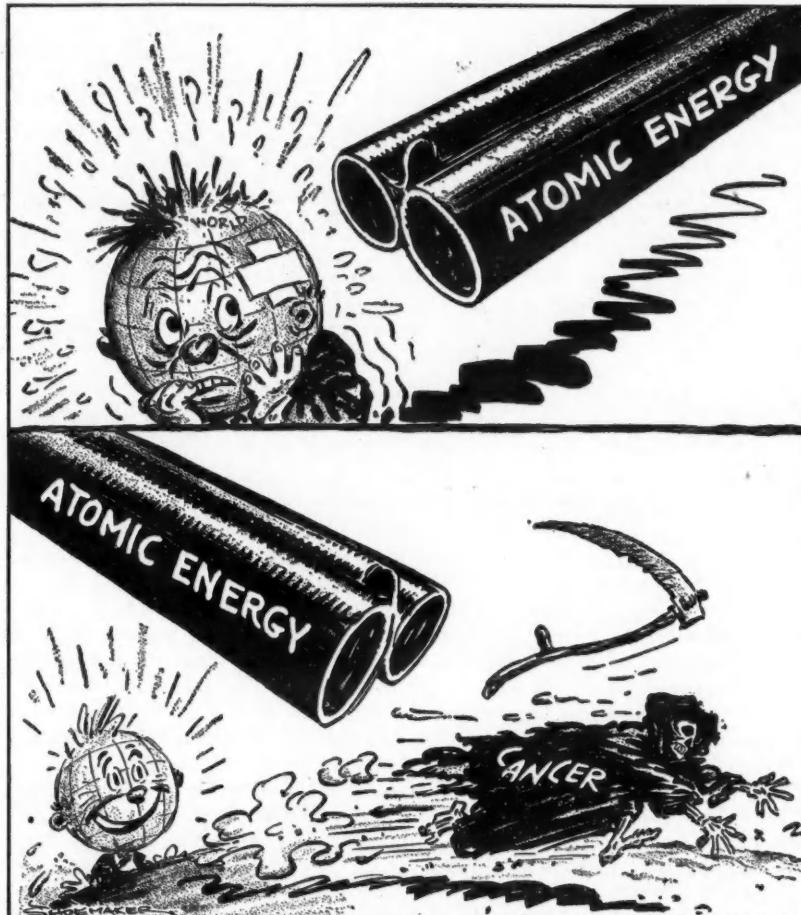
Walter E. Myer

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WASHINGTON, D. C.



SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Mastering the Atom

Military Use of New Energy Source Receives Most Attention, But Headway Is Made on Peacetime Projects

THE United States is moving ahead on the production of increasingly powerful atomic weapons, as well as on the development of atomic energy for peacetime purposes. Unfortunately, we must give more attention to the atom's military uses than to its more constructive possibilities. So long as the threat of war exists, our nation has to remain ahead of the rest of the world in the development and output of weapons which use this recently opened source of power.

Many of the facts about America's present-day atomic weapons must, of course, remain hidden from the general public. No one, aside from a relatively small number of scientists and public officials, knows how much more powerful are the atom bombs of today than were those used against Japan in 1945. Neither does the public know how many atomic bombs we have.

The need for secrecy in regard to atomic energy creates some grave problems for our government. Even U. S. lawmakers, who must make the decisions on how much money is to be spent for various national defense programs, have been given little information about the atomic bombs that are now being constructed.

"In the case of atomic energy," says U. S. Senator Brien McMahon of Con-

nnecticut, "Congress has purchased a defense package sight unseen. Congress has only a most general idea of what the atomic package contains."

Senator McMahon thinks it might be wise for the United States to reveal publicly how many atomic bombs it has. This information, he says, would aid Congress in its efforts to provide a well-balanced defense force. Moreover, if we have a large number of bombs, knowledge of that fact might help to prevent unfriendly nations from starting a war against us.

The officials who are directly in charge of America's atomic energy program, though, have shown no intention of telling how many of the powerful bombs have been made. They apparently feel that this information would be of value to possible enemies.

Meanwhile, other disputes involving the atomic bomb are taking place. In spite of the terrible destruction that atomic explosives have wrought, there is disagreement concerning the bomb's effectiveness as a decisive weapon in case of another war.

In this matter, too, the general public and Congress must depend a great deal upon the judgment of a few officials who have access to full information on what our present atom bombs

(Concluded on page 6)

Australia Pushes Its Development

Only Its Small Population May Keep Country from Fully Using Its Resources

AUSTRALIA, like almost all other lands on the globe, has been having its troubles. Strikes in the coal mines have caused factories to shut down, and prolonged droughts in some areas have threatened the grazing lands. There are shortages of housing, and the workingman often complains because prices seem to rise faster than do his wages. Then, too, Australia's leading problem—that of population—has not been solved.

Despite these difficulties, Australia is better off than most nations. It enjoys a relatively high standard of living and it can look forward to almost unlimited development in the future.

While much of the country's land is too dry for farming, there is still plenty of acreage that can be used for agriculture and for grazing. There are sufficient mineral resources to support thriving industries. Furthermore, the Australian people are enterprising and independent, and they are determined to make their country one of the finest in the world.

Dutch traders were among the first Europeans to visit this large island-continent of the southwest Pacific. They arrived in the early 1600's—at about the time when the first American colonies were being established. While the Dutch claimed the land for their rulers, they made no attempt to colonize it. In 1770, Captain James Cook of England planted the British flag on the continent.

Eighteen years later, in 1788, the first settlers were sent to the new land. These colonists were chiefly people who had been convicted of crimes in England—they were political prisoners and debtors. Similar groups of settlers followed during the next few decades, but it was not until gold was

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JOSEPH B. CHIFLEY, Prime Minister of Australia

Australia's Problems and Resources Discussed

(Concluded from page 1)

discovered, in 1850, that any appreciable migrations to the continent took place. The gold rush brought more than a million people to Australia.

Today the country, with an area approximately equal to that of the United States, has a population of only 7½ million. (The U. S. has 145 million.) This small population is Australia's most serious problem. Agricultural and industrial production are limited—not—as they are in so many countries—by a lack of natural resources. Instead, they are restricted solely by the fact that there are not enough people in the country to do the necessary work.

The scant population also makes Australia fearful about its defense. To the north lie nations—China, India, Japan—where overpopulation is a never-ending problem. The southern country knows that any serious upheaval in those areas might send large numbers of Asiatics to her shores. Such an occurrence almost took place during World War II, when the Japanese were reaching for Australia in their drive through the south Pacific.

Aside from the question of population, Australia's other major difficulty is in her climate. Geographers say that the country's whole progress and her way of life today might be different had nature not put ranges of mountains in the eastern part of the island-continent.

Warm, moisture-laden winds from the Pacific blow onto Australia's southeast coast. Except for the mountains along the coast, the winds might provide rain for the entire continent. In crossing the mountains, though,



AUSTRALIA is almost as large as the U. S.

the winds lose their moisture, and as a result the central and western parts of Australia get a minimum of rain. But for this fact, central Australia might be a thriving region similar to our Middle West.

In contrast to the central section of Australia, the southeastern coast is an extremely pleasant region. The climate is mild and there is sufficient rainfall to support beautiful vegetation. Most of the nation's important cities—Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, and Melbourne—are located on this coast. About two thirds of the country's population lives there.

A short distance inland from the seacoast is a region that includes great orchards and fertile wheat farms. Beyond these are the vast sheep ranches which produce the mutton and wool for which Australia has become famous. But on to the west are the barren deserts—regions populated only by native tribes of Aborigines or Abos, as they are commonly called by the Australians.

The northern coast of the country



AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND INFORMATION BUREAU
SYDNEY HARBOR BRIDGE. Sydney, a leading port, is one of the most important commercial centers south of the Equator.

has a tropical climate. Heavy rains and warm temperatures make the vegetation luxuriant. Here, as in the eastern section, though, the rainfall decreases as one moves inland and the area blends into the central desert.

Efforts are being made to develop the entire northern part of Australia, especially that section known as the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory is about twice the size of Texas but, except for a few thousand Aborigines, it has a population of only about 10,000. The full extent of the region's resources is not yet known, although minerals such as gold, tin, copper, silver, and lead have been found. Large sections of the Territory are suitable for farming, and cattle raising has already become an important industry.

One of the principal jobs to be done in developing the Territory is to encourage people to settle there. Another is the task of building railroads across the continent to bring the region into close contact with the southeastern portion of Australia. Now, most trade between the two sections must be carried on by steamship.

Plans are also being carried out to develop a second large tract in Australia—a 10,000-square-mile wasteland in the southern part of the country. This region has sufficient rainfall for farming, but the land has been so poor that for years it has defied all attempts to grow crops on it.

Scientists, who have been studying the area for years, finally found a means by which the "missing elements" could be put into the soil at low cost. Now people are moving into the wasteland, and the area is beginning to "bloom."

A third project that is underway in Australia—one marked "top secret"—is the building of a rocket range in the south central part of the country. Here the British and Australian governments are to test guided rockets, pilotless aircraft, and jet-propelled missiles. The range extends several hundred miles across the central desert, and is 200 miles wide.

Australia is one of the oldest land areas on the globe, and it has many forms of plant and animal life that, in ages past, existed on other continents but no longer do so. The vegeta-

cian eruptions caused the great island to be cut off from what is now Asia. The primitive forms of life on Australia continued, while those in other parts of the world changed as the centuries passed. Whether or not this is actually what happened cannot be known, but scientists find many interesting specimens of early life on the island-continent.

Any discussion of Australia should refer to the character of the people. Descended primarily from Anglo-Saxon stock—English, Irish, Scottish, and Welch—they are as democratic as any other people of the world. They love the out-of-doors and they love sports.

At the same time, they are hard-working, and they are bent on developing their continent. American servicemen who were stationed in Australia during World War II found the "Aussies" much like the people of the U. S., and some of our soldiers decided to make Australia their home. Others brought Australian brides to the United States.

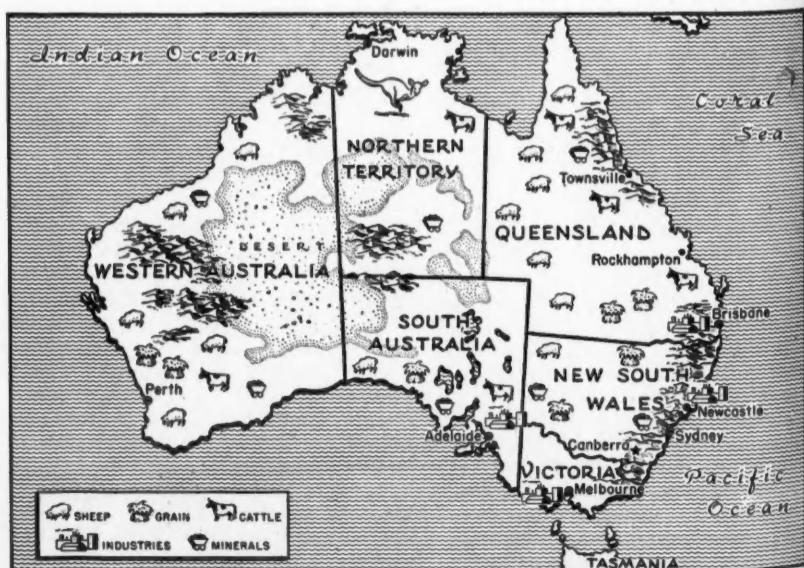
The Australians are often criticized because they will not accept any immigrants except those of white stock. The Australians feel, however, that they are justified in the position they take. The nation now has an entirely white population, except for the Aborigines, and it has had none of the racial difficulties that have occurred in other sections of the world.

Federal Union

Australia is made up of six states and two territories that form a union somewhat like that of the United States. The individual states decide issues pertaining to purely local matters, but they are subject to federal power in problems that are of national interest.

In international affairs, the continent-nation is closely linked to Great Britain. It is a dominion in the Commonwealth of Nations, and has stood steadfastly by Britain and the United States both in war and in peace.

At the same time, Australia is thoroughly independent, and it resents threats or acts of domination by the larger powers. In the United Nations, its representatives constantly demand that the smaller countries of the world be given full voice in important decisions.



AUSTRALIA'S resources and her industries

Readers Say—

I believe that the work done by the Hoover Commission is of great importance to the country. Our government is both big and expensive and it could use some "streamlining." At the same time, I do not agree with Mr. Hoover's suggestion that each department and agency be permitted to do its own hiring. If this occurred, I believe that many people would obtain jobs for political reasons rather than on the basis of merit.

MARIAN WINTERS,
Whitehall, New York

* * *

America is the most prosperous and the strongest country in the world today. But I wonder how long we will remain in this position. We are using up our natural resources at an alarming rate and there is the danger that in the years to come we will be without many important minerals and other products.

PAUL FARM,
Kearney, Nebraska

* * *

In a recent article, you stated that there has been some opposition to the bill providing pensions and other benefits to the veterans. In our opinion, our ex-servicemen risked their lives for their country and they deserve as much aid as they can get.

JIM CARLSON,
GERALD HANSEN,
Manistee, Michigan

* * *

Two readers, Ed Kleinke and Ed Koenigs, recently wrote that the proposed bill providing federal aid to education would make the schools of our country uniformly good. I disagree. The school system might be improved, but at the same time it would come under the domination of the federal government. The latter would dictate to the local schools what subjects they should teach and what policies they should adopt. This would be communistic.

DORIS FREY,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

* * *

I disagree with the statement made by Lorelei Wilson in the April 11 issue. The federal government should provide aid to education because this is the only way in which our school system can be effectively helped. To my mind, it makes no difference what such a program is called. It can even be called socialistic but as long as it helps the cause of education, it is a desirable thing.

JOHN BORGIA,
Norwalk, Ohio

* * *

I wholeheartedly agree with the viewpoint expressed by Adie Suehsdorf in the recent article he wrote on "Bad Conduct in the Stands." Some fans are so unmannerly and unsportsmanlike that they are creating a dangerous and provocative situation. To my mind, it's certainly time that some people learned the rules of whatever sport they make a habit of attending.

DUANE DAVIS,
Boulder, Colorado

* * *

(Address your letters to Readers Say, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



CORSON FROM A. DEVANEY, INC.

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, from this country and abroad, visit the Capitol in Washington, D. C., each year

Washington Plans "Birthday Party"

Expected to Rival New York World's Fair in Interest

NEXT year the nation's capital is going to celebrate its 150th birthday. A commission has been working on the anniversary program since March 1948. If Congress supplies the requested funds, Washington's sesquicentennial observance may be the biggest celebration of its kind since the New York World's Fair.

As now planned, the "fair grounds" will be located on a 75-acre area along the Potomac River. The three principal buildings will be designed in the shape of the letters, "U.S.A.", and will be outlined with lights that can be seen by the passengers of planes arriving and departing at the nearby National Airport.

At the entrance of the exposition grounds, the commission plans to have a full-size reproduction of the Freedom Statue which is located on top of the Capitol. Within the buildings will be space for exhibitors. The state and federal governments and various industries will have displays to show how much progress this country has made under the democratic form of government during the past 150 years.

President Truman is wholeheartedly in accord with the plans for a "birthday party" for the seat of our national government. In fact, he has suggested that the anniversary celebration be called "Freedom Fair." Mr. Truman is acting as honorary chairman of the event, which is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of additional visitors to the capital.

Even without such an attraction as a sesquicentennial observance, Washington is already one of the greatest tourist cities in the country. Each year it is estimated that about 3 1/4 million people visit here.

Many of the visitors are members of high school graduating classes or are attached to other school groups. About 5,000 such groups come to Washington during the course of a year, the majority of them between

March 15 and June 15. Each averages about 40 members and stays for about three days. In addition, many other young people visit the capital.

Washington is also a popular convention city. During 1948 about 230 organizations held conventions here.

Whether they have come to the capital primarily for business or pleasure, nearly all visitors flock to certain famous places during their stay. According to the Washington Board of Trade, four spots are most popular with sight-seers. They are the following:

The Capitol. The first sight that visitors arriving by train at night see as they emerge from the station is



OSCAR SEIDENBERG

ANOTHER popular sight in the nation's capital—the Washington Monument

the beautifully lighted dome of the Capitol. In the opposite wings of this impressive building are chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Proceedings of either body may be witnessed from the galleries. Another popular attraction is the little electric railway which runs underground from the Capitol to the nearby Senate Office Building.

Smithsonian Group. In the five buildings which comprise this group are famous museums and art galleries. Here the visitors may spend hours looking over exhibits which range all the way from Benjamin Franklin's printing press to Lindbergh's famous ocean-spanning plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*.

Lincoln Memorial. Enclosed in a classical temple is a huge, seated statue of Abraham Lincoln. The martyred President seems to be looking out across the Reflecting Pool to the dome of the Capitol in the distance.

Washington Monument. All visitors are impressed by the view of the nation's capital from the top of the 555-foot monument, built as a tribute to our first President. Many countries, states, and all kinds of organizations contributed stone blocks for the memorial.

While these are the most frequently visited places in Washington, a number of others enjoy almost equal popularity. The beautiful Mellon Gallery houses a growing collection of art. The White House, now under repair, is a familiar landmark in the center of the city.

Not far from the capital are Arlington National Cemetery with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and Washington's home at Mt. Vernon. These and other places of interest will swarm with even more visitors than usual next year if the "Freedom Fair" is held as planned.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

The Story of the Week

Dewey Again?

Since last November, when he was defeated for the presidency by Mr. Truman, Governor Thomas E. Dewey has confined himself mainly to his work as chief executive of New York State. There has been some speculation whether he intended to run again for the nation's highest office in 1952 or 1956 but there has been no indication as to how Mr. Dewey really felt.

In the opinion of some observers, there may now be an opportunity to determine Mr. Dewey's political ambitions. Senator Robert F. Wagner, who has represented New York in the Senate for many years, is ill and may soon resign. If he does and if Mr. Dewey then seeks and wins Wagner's Senate seat, these observers believe that the governor will have shown that he is still interested in national politics.

They feel that, in the event Mr. Dewey becomes a Senator, he will seek the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1952 or 1956. Some think that he may not try again until 1960, since he will only be 60 at that time and will have had a chance, in the meantime, to make a good record in the upper chamber of Congress.

Mr. Dewey is presently serving his second term as governor of New York State. He was elected the first time in 1942 and was re-elected in 1946. During the recent session of the state legislature, he met with a great deal of opposition to his legislative program because some Republicans would no longer accept his leadership. Nevertheless, he did secure the passage of important laws affecting education, housing, and sickness insurance for workers.

Alaskan Unemployment

Government officials are somewhat concerned over the employment situation in Alaska. It appears that a large number of workers from the United States migrated to Alaska during the past few months but have been unable to find jobs.

Conditions in the territory's large towns are said to be particularly bad. In Anchorage, for instance, there are between 5,000 and 10,000 workers out of jobs while the total population of the city, excluding these migrants, is only 20,000. A similar situation prevails in Fairbanks, Ketchikan, and Juneau.

Large numbers of working people decided to move to Alaska because of reports that a building "boom" was under way there. Construction workers who could not obtain jobs in "the states" felt that they might have better luck in some Alaskan city where a great deal of construction was going on. As it has turned out, however, there are not enough jobs for all the workers who have gone to Alaska.

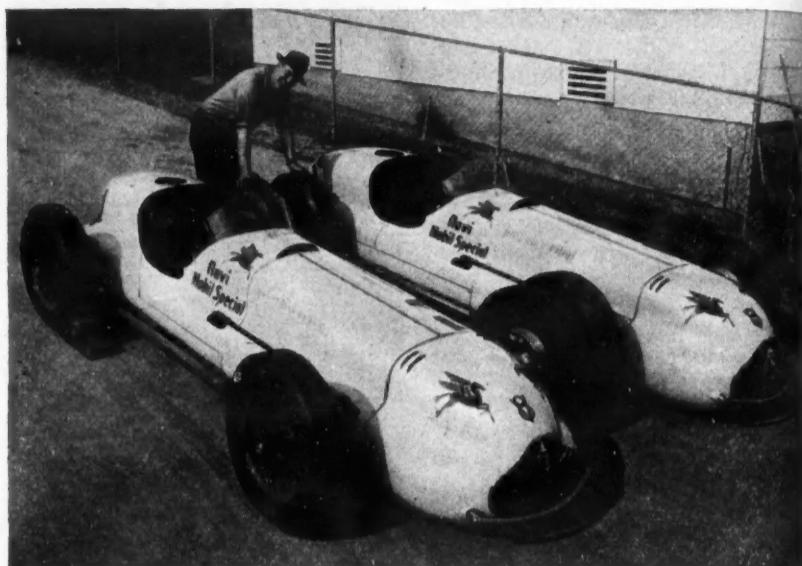
Big Four at Paris

In accordance with their agreement of May 4, the Secretary of State of the United States and the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France and Russia will meet in Paris May 23 to discuss the problem of Germany. Among the questions they will take up are a peace treaty for the Germans, the possible establishment of a government for the whole country, and the problem of a single currency for Berlin.

The Big Four agreed to hold the conference on May 23 after they had succeeded in reaching agreement on the lifting of the Berlin blockade. Under the latter settlement, the Russians promised to remove the restrictions they had placed on transportation between the Western zones of Germany and Berlin. The Western powers agreed to withdraw the counter-blockade they had imposed against the Russian-controlled Eastern zone as a retaliatory measure.

In the opinion of many observers, the decision to lift the blockade and the counter-blockade and to hold a meeting of the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers represents a victory for the Allies. The Allies are still going ahead with their plans for a West German state and are still firmly entrenched in Berlin. The Russians, on the other hand, have consented to lift their restrictions on Berlin without obtaining any major concessions from the Allied powers.

As many commentators point out, the Soviet Union probably decided to come to terms with the West because of the success of the Berlin airlift. They also contend that the Atlantic Pact and the European Recovery Program were also responsible for Russia's change in position. Both the Atlantic Pact and the ERP have considerably strengthened the countries of Western Europe in their fight against communism and in their efforts to recover from the recent war.



WIDE WORLD
HEADED for the Indianapolis Speedway. These Novi Specials are being made ready for the Memorial Day races to be held in Indianapolis late this month.

It now remains to be seen whether Russia will show the same cooperative spirit in Paris as she did during her recent discussions with the Allies in New York. If so, the prospects of continued peace will be brighter than at any time during the last several years.

Speed-Boat Pilot

This summer Guy Lombardo, the noted band leader and speed-boat pilot, will attempt to set a new one-mile record with the powerful craft which Henry J. Kaiser, the famous industrialist, has just had built at a New Jersey shipyard. If the boat proves its worth, Lombardo will also pilot it in the Harmsworth Regatta in late July. The well-known international power-boat competition is being resumed this summer after a lapse of 16 years.

Engineers think that the new Kaiser boat has a good chance of setting a speed record. Embodying a number of revolutionary changes, the powerful craft is driven by a double Allison aircraft engine of some 3,000 horsepower. Its two propellers revolve nearly 12,000 times a minute. Aluminum has been used extensively to strengthen the boat.

Racing experts agree that Kaiser has picked the right man to coax the utmost speed from the new craft. The 46-year-old Lombardo has been competing in power-boat competition

for 10 years. In March 1948 he set a U. S. speed-boat record at Miami Beach, Florida. Later in the year he suffered a broken arm when his boat broke up in the International Gold Cup races after Lombardo had swerved to avoid a crash.

Born in Canada, Lombardo is now a naturalized U. S. citizen. His Royal Canadians are still one of the more popular bands in the country, but their leader frequently leaves them to take part in speed-boat competition. He thinks that the new Kaiser boat may be the craft to beat the one-mile speed record of 141 miles an hour, set some years ago by the late Sir Malcolm Campbell of England.

Rotterdam

The city of Rotterdam, chief port of the Netherlands, is making progress in rebuilding the sections that were destroyed by Nazi bombers during World War II. In the center of the city, where 25,000 dwellings and 2,000 factories were wiped out, new structures are being erected.

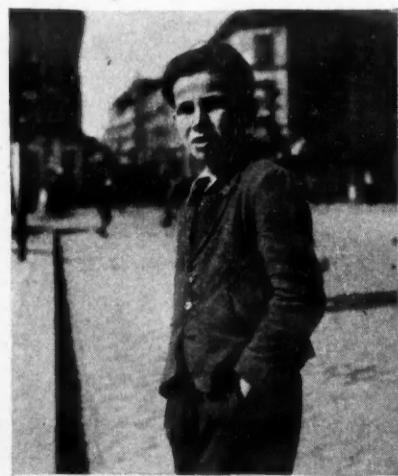
The program for rebuilding Rotterdam is in the hands of a group of town planners, who wish to make Rotterdam a modern and beautiful city. They intend to construct most of the city's new factories at the outskirts and to allow only office buildings and retail stores to occupy the "downtown" section of town. Dwellings for Rotterdam's industrial workers will be built in "garden developments" a short distance from the factories and they will be surrounded by lawns and trees.

Rotterdam's officials expect to spend 750 million dollars on the program during the next 10 years. This will provide for 100 thousand homes as well as a large number of plants and mills.

Empire State Building

The Empire State Building in New York City—the tallest structure in the world—was 18 years old May 1. In honor of the occasion, the owners of the building have issued some interesting information about its history.

For one thing, the structure has been visited by millions of people. Ten million have been to its two observatories, from which one may view a large portion of New York City and



PHOTOS FROM BLACK STAR
THREE VICTIMS OF WAR. Millions of foreign youths are still poverty-stricken as a result of the war. The young man in the center picture is an Austrian; the other two are Italians.

the surrounding area. In the last 18 years, a total of 328 million passengers have used the building's 61 elevators.

The structure has also been used for scientific purposes. The mooring mast at its top, for instance, has figured in experiments to determine whether lightning can strike the same place twice. (It can.) It has also figured in tests of transmitting equipment for television and frequency modulation programs.

Other scientists have used the upper stories of the building to study weather conditions and the characteristics of sound at a high altitude. They have also conducted cosmic ray experiments from the structure and, interestingly enough, found about 200 different kinds of insects at the 1,000 foot level.

The height of the Empire State Building is 1,250 feet. Though it is one of the main attractions in New York for vacationists and others, the structure is chiefly used for business purposes. Among its tenants are some of the country's largest corporations.

Canadian Election

The people of Canada will go to the polls June 27 to elect a new Parliament. The two chief rivals in the election will be the Progressive Conservative and the Liberal Parties. The Progressive Conservatives may be compared with the Conservative group in Great Britain. The Liberal Party holds views similar to those held by the supporters of President Truman's "Fair Deal" program.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Louis St. Laurent, is the leader of the Liberal Party. He will seek re-election to office on the basis of the record of the recent legislature. Among the laws it passed were measures increasing old age pensions and other social security benefits.

It also approved the North Atlantic Pact and Canada's participation in the international wheat agreement. Under this agreement, Canada pledges to sell a certain amount of wheat to other countries and to charge only those prices that were agreed upon at a conference held recently in Washington.

St. Laurent's most important opponent will be George A. Drew, head



FAMILIAR LANDSCAPE. The Chinese people have known little but war for many, many years.

of the Progressive Conservatives. Drew is an influential political figure and has the support of many persons who object to the "reform" ideas of the Liberals.

Argentine Industry

Businessmen in the United States and elsewhere are studying the recent speeches of President Juan Peron of Argentina to see whether he plans to take over all industries in his country that are now owned partially or completely by foreign investors. Since becoming head of the Argentine government, Peron has nationalized the country's railroads and most of its telephone and insurance companies, large portions of which were owned by Americans and others.

Peron gave some indication of what his future plans might be in an address the other day to the national legislature. In this address, he said he intended to take over control of all "public services" that are now in private hands. According to most observers, this means that the Argentine government may nationalize the electric power industry, the air lines, and other companies. Foreign businessmen have investments in these enterprises too.

Up to now, Argentina has paid fairly reasonable prices for the industries it has taken over from private enterprise, but there is some concern at present as to whether this policy will be continued, since the government is having financial difficulties. Foreign investors are watching the situation closely.

Our Changing Language

The English language is constantly changing. New words are added to it each year. Old words take on new meanings as time goes by. That is why publishing firms bring out new editions of their dictionaries from time to time.

The latest to be published contains 15,000 words which are new or which now have different meanings. Many of them came into being during the war—"radar," for example. Television and atomic energy also account for a variety of new words. From the field of world affairs come the phrases "iron curtain" and "cold war."

Also appearing in the dictionary for the first time are "Israeli," "disc jockey," "motel," and "roomette."

Citizenship Celebration

Yesterday was observed throughout the United States as "I Am an American" Day. Colorful ceremonies were held in many communities to celebrate the occasion and to remind us of the duties as well as the privileges of American citizenship.

"I Am an American" Day has been observed each year since 1940 when Congress first approved the celebration. In proclaiming this year's observance, President Truman said that "the strength of our nation lies in the unity of all our people, of whatever race, creed, culture, or national origin—a unity that can be built only upon full realization of the worth and meaning of American citizenship."

Two groups of new citizens were especially honored yesterday. First, there were the young people who, in the last year, have reached voting age. They are entering on a new phase of their lives and now may begin to participate fully in the civic activities of their communities.

Then there were the men and women, born in other lands, who have

recently become citizens of this nation. Most of the immigrants who come to our shores become citizens and to many of them we owe a debt of gratitude.

"I Am an American" Day is meaningful to all of us. As one writer says, "It gives all of us the opportunity to understand more fully the high privileges and the serious responsibilities that go with our citizenship, and to obtain a better concept of the patriotic, spiritual, and moral integrity and practice essential to the maintenance of the American way of life."

SMILES

First Golfer: "The traps on this course are very annoying."

Second Golfer (trying to putt): "Yes; will you please close yours."

★ ★ ★

Nurse: "Did you put that patient on a diet?"

Doctor: "Yes, I told him to eat only the plainest food and very little of that."

Nurse: "Will that help him?"

Doctor: "It will help him pay my bill."



"What'll I tell him now? He never lasted four rounds before."

She: "Mother and I can hardly understand each other over the telephone."

He: "Did you ever try talking one at a time?"

★ ★ ★

An anxious father, failing to hear from his son in college for a month, wrote the president: "I trust my son is not sick, but if he has been, I hope to hear he's improving."

Back came this answer: "Your son is not sick, neither is he improving."

★ ★ ★

Friend: "Are you going to raise any cucumbers this year in your garden?"

Young Bride: "No. The directions say to plant the seeds in hills, and you know our lot is perfectly level."

★ ★ ★

"How was the picture?" asked mother. "Terrible," said her young son. "It was all I could do to sit through it the second time."

★ ★ ★

A city chap was crossing a pasture. "Say, there," he shouted to a farmer, "Is this bull safe?"

"Well," said the farmer, "I reckon he's a lot safer than you are just now."

★ ★ ★

Guide: "Did you ever hear the joke about the Egyptian guide who showed a group of tourists two skulls of King Tut, one when he was a boy, and the other when he was a man?"

Listener: "No, what is it?"

★ ★ ★

Customer: "I'd like to see some good second-hand cars."

Salesman: "So would I."

★ ★ ★

Visiting Foreman: "How many people work here?"

Factory Manager: "About one in ten."



HOLLAND, MICHIGAN, is ready for its annual Tulip Festival, which begins May 18. Each year, when the tulips bloom, the Michigan city of 14,000 inhabitants celebrates its ties with the Netherlands. Most of Holland's residents are of Dutch descent.

Atomic Energy in U. S.

(Concluded from page 1)

can accomplish. The characteristics of today's bombs are a mystery to nearly everyone. Almost no information has been released concerning the atomic explosions that were set off about a year ago in the Eniwetok island group in the Pacific Ocean, but it is known that these tests proved the existence of atomic weapons much more powerful than the bombs which were detonated in 1945 and 1946.

Regardless of how large a part they could play in defeating any nation, atom bombs are recognized as the most destructive and terrible war weapons now known. So long as the threat of war exists, the thought of atomic energy will probably inspire fear and dread in the minds of most people. The United Nations has tried to work out a system of international control to prevent the use of atomic energy for aggressive purposes, but efforts along this line have bogged down.

If war can be avoided, however, mankind is in a position to reap great benefits from peacetime use of atomic energy. The atom may eventually become a great source of power for lighting cities, operating factories, and propelling ships. Already atomic science is providing highly valuable substances for use in various kinds of research work and in the curing of certain diseases.

A brief review of some basic facts about atomic energy will help us to understand its peacetime possibilities, and to recognize some of the difficulties surrounding its use. Locked up within an atom of any substance is a tremendous amount of energy. If all such power in a cup of water were released, it could drive an ocean liner across the Atlantic and back.

Man has learned to release some of this force by splitting the atoms of uranium and plutonium. Scientists can unleash atomic energy either in the sudden explosion of a bomb or in the slow, continuous operation of a reactor or pile—a large stack of uranium or plutonium chunks embedded in carbon or certain other substances.

These processes give off considerable energy in the form of heat. It

is said that the temperature in an atomic bomb explosion is higher than that of the sun's surface. The temperature reached during the operation of a pile is also high, though not so extreme as that of the bomb.

Scientists hope eventually to set up atomic reactors whose heat can be used for generating enough steam to operate factories and power plants. By consuming just a few pounds of uranium or plutonium, such installations could turn out tremendous amounts of energy.

Because so many problems remain to be worked out, it is likely to be about 1970 before we see much large-scale peacetime use of the atom for these purposes. Even then, atomic "fuel" may be too costly to use in regions where coal or water power is plentiful. It probably will be employed mainly in areas that are far from other sources of energy.

The government is interested in the development of "atomic engines" for driving ships and airplanes. Of these, the airplane engine presents by far the more difficult problem. Any present-day atomic pile must be surrounded by massive shields, to protect nearby persons and equipment from the powerful rays which atomic reactions emit.

For this and other reasons, it seems quite certain that for a long time to come all atomic power plants will be large and heavy. Atomic engines suitable for ships may be constructed before long, but use of the new power source in airplanes and automobiles appears to be a distant goal.

There is one peacetime atomic energy project, meanwhile, that is already giving great benefits to mankind. It involves the use of *radioactive isotopes*—substances which have been treated in an atomic laboratory so that they give off rays.

"Radioisotopes" can be made from such elements as phosphorus, iodine, carbon, sulphur, zinc, and iron. Scientists have known about these isotopes, and have been able to make them in extremely small quantities, for a number of years. The atomic pile, or reactor, developed during the 1940's,

International Correspondence

Students who wish to correspond with youths in foreign countries should fill out the form below and send it, along with 50 cents in postal note or money order—not coin, to the International Friendship League, Inc., 40 Mount Vernon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts. For a full explanation of how the program works, see page 1 editorial by Walter E. Myer.

PLEASE PRINT IN INK			
Name _____	Last Name _____	First Name _____	Date of Birth _____ Month Day Year
Address _____	No. _____	Street _____	City or Town _____ State _____
School and grade _____	Church _____		
Hobbies _____			
Parent's Name _____	Parent's Occupation _____		
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE			

has made it possible to produce them on a large scale.

Radioisotopes have countless uses. Doctors employ them in the treatment of cancer and several other diseases. Moreover, they constitute valuable research tools in many branches of science. Because a radioisotope of carbon or any other substance gives off rays, its presence can be detected by instruments. This makes it useful as a "tracer." The material can be placed in the human body, in an animal, in the soil, or in a plant, and kept under constant observation.

For example, atoms of one kind of radioisotope might be added to a fertilizer. Then scientists would be able to watch the isotope and see how it is taken up by plants, where it goes, and what happens to the plants which receive the substance. Such an experiment could lead to improved fertilizers and to better methods of using them. Tracers, or "tagged atoms," are also used in research on the characteristics of metals and other industrial materials.

"If the development of atomic energy had produced nothing else," says the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, "its cost would undoubtedly have been balanced within a few years by the gains in knowledge that the nation is making with isotopes in medicine, chemistry, industry, and agriculture."

The United States government is sending isotopes to universities, hospitals, industrial laboratories, and to other research institutions both in this country and abroad. More than 250 organizations and laboratories in America, and over 100 in other nations, are making use of these substances.

Atomic energy development in the United States, for both military and civilian purposes, is under control of the government's five-man Atomic Energy Commission, headed by David Lilienthal. A great deal of the actual work on atomic projects is done by universities and business firms, under agreements with the Commission. The Westinghouse Electric Corporation, for example, is helping in the effort to develop an atomic engine that can be used on ships.

Scattered about the country are big research centers owned by the Atomic Energy Commission. A plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, turns out isotopes for research purposes. Plutonium, the "man-made element" used in atomic bombs, is produced at Hanford, Washington. Plants and laboratories in New Mexico are at work on the development of atomic weapons. There are big research installations in Illinois and New York.

Work in connection with atomic energy is in progress at many establishments besides these. Atomic enterprises, as a whole, employ about 65,000 Americans, and have cost well over 3 billion dollars since 1939.

Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared recently in an issue of the New York Herald Tribune. Match each italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. The House voted to *recommit* (ree-kuh-mit') the bill. (a) refer again to committee (b) change (c) adopt (d) postpone action on.

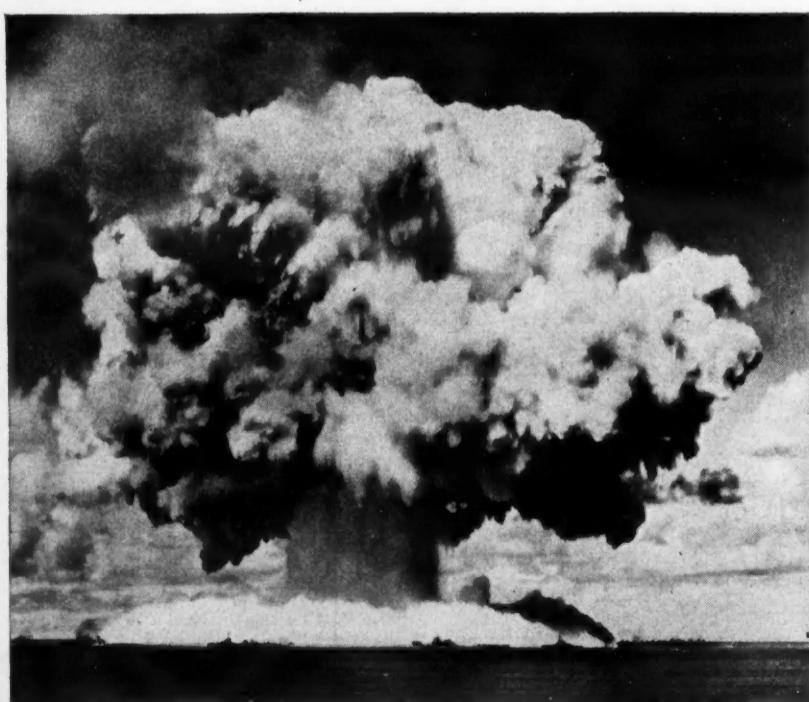
2. The Speaker of the House *elucidated* (é-loos'i-day-ted) his position. (a) strongly defended (b) made clear (c) changed (d) expressed uncertainty about.

3. The bill provided for *injunctions* (in-junk'shuns) in labor disputes. (a) negotiations (b) court orders (c) pickets (d) Labor Department action.

4. The committee presented charges against the city government that were *documented* (dok'u-men-ted). (a) supported by evidence (b) unfounded (c) sensational (d) puzzling.

5. Corruption was said to be *rife* (rife') in the government of that country. (a) nonexistent (b) trivial (c) under discussion (d) abundant.

6. A group of private investigators was responsible for *ascertaining* (ás-er-tain'ing) the facts. (a) wholly disproving (b) determining (c) publishing (d) foolishly hiding.



U. S. NAVY
EXPLOSION of the fifth atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll in July, 1946. Atomic bombs are the "most destructive and terrible war weapons now known."

Tune In!

"CRUSADE in Europe," the series of 26 documented films on World War II, is now being seen on ABC's television network each Thursday night. This series vividly depicts the swiftly moving events of the late war as interpreted by General Eisenhower. It begins with the signing of the historic Munich pact and will conclude with the postwar period, giving Eisenhower's observations of the Allied Military Government and detailing his visit to Russia.

Recent preview screenings of "Crusade in Europe," held for leading statesmen, military figures, and educators brought the unanimous opinion that every American, wherever possible, should see this series.

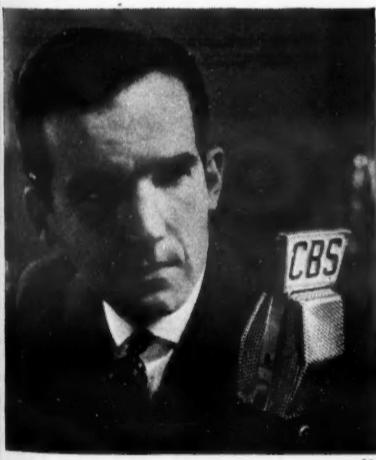
* * *

Many of you have no doubt heard the CBS prize-winning program, "You Are There." This is a series of newscast re-enactments of great historical events which has been acclaimed by critics as "living records of history."

Now this show is being recorded for phonographic use. Columbia records has released two of its outstanding performances—"The Signing of the Magna Charta" and "The Battle of Gettysburg." The decision by CBS to produce the albums was based on thousands of mail and telephone requests for copies of scripts and recordings.

* * *

"The spoken word on the radio," according to CBS Commentator Edward Murrow, "should be used to provide the listener with information and considerations upon which opinion can be based; it should not be used to provide



ED MURROW, popular CBS news analyst, believes that radio commentators should emphasize facts rather than their own personal views in their newscasts.

ready-made opinion, or to advocate policy or agitate for action."

* * *

Fred Waring's Music Workshop opens again this summer at Fred's country place at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, in Pennsylvania. The staff at the workshop are Fred's regular Pennsylvanians.

Students come from all over the country to study choral technique. In the past three years, more than a thousand directors from school, college, church, community and industrial music groups have attended. Of course, Fred and his associates are well qualified to teach choral work. Fred has devoted 30 years to his music, and he's done pretty well by it.

—By GEORGE EDSSEN.



HARRY DUGAN, WORLD TRAVEL PHOTO
INTERLACHEN, SWITZERLAND. The Swiss people are getting ready for the avalanche of summer visitors who will soon come to their country.

Picturesque Country

Switzerland, One of the World's Most Stable and Prosperous Nations, Prepares for the Summer Tourist Trade

SWITZERLAND is now preparing for its usual summer influx of tourists. Hotels and resort areas are being made ready, and the Swiss authorities are taking steps which they hope will induce visitors to remain in that country during their entire vacations. The Swiss have removed many travel restrictions which are still in effect in some other lands.

The tourist trade is a major source of income for this little, land-locked nation in central Europe. Thousands of travelers go there annually to view the magnificent Alpine scenery and to enjoy Switzerland's picturesque towns and cities. Last year about 1 million tourists visited the country during the summer months, and countless others went there in the winter for skiing and skating.

Among the other large sources of income for the Swiss people are industrial and dairy products. The manufactured products for which the country is famous include fine fabrics, watches, clocks, and jewelry—items which depend chiefly for their value upon the high degree of skill with which they are made. Swiss cheeses are famous the world over.

Good Constitution

Switzerland, which last fall celebrated the 100th anniversary of its constitution, is recognized today as one of the most stable and prosperous countries in the world. The constitution of 1848—changed only in minor ways during the past century—has helped greatly in putting Switzerland in the enviable position she now occupies.

For one thing, that document established a federal form of government which has worked out well. A two-house parliament, modeled on the American Congress, passes laws of national interest, while Switzerland's 22 states, or cantons, control local matters.

Another important provision of the constitution is that which recognizes the equality of religions, nationalities, and languages within the country. Because of the make-up of the Swiss population, this clause has been a vital one. Nearly three fourths of the Swiss people speak German; about a fourth speak French; and some speak

Italian. A number of religions are represented among the 4½ million Swiss.

Of course, there are other factors besides the constitution which have shaped the character of the modern Swiss nation. The most notable of these is the geography of the country. One of the most mountainous lands in the world, Switzerland has long enjoyed freedom from war. Its towering mountains protect it to a large degree, and it has not been invaded since the time of Napoleon.

Surrounded by Germans

During World War II, Switzerland was surrounded for a time by German occupied territory and was forced to trade almost exclusively with the Germans. But because the people of Switzerland love democracy and freedom, there was strong sympathy for the Allied nations.

Switzerland is a small country—about half the size of South Carolina—and since much of the land is mountainous and unfit for crops, the Swiss buy large quantities of grain and other food products abroad with the money they receive from the sale of their manufactured goods.

Through the years the Swiss have welcomed to their country many people who had been driven out of other nations. Some of the most brilliant leaders of Europe have gone there and helped Switzerland to prosper. In looking back over their country's record, the Swiss people have good cause for pride. They can be confident of their future, too.



JACOB'S FROM THREE LIONS
SWISS GIRL helps with the work on her family's farm

Science News

CANDALON is a new nylon upholstery scheduled for use in many 1950 automobiles. The fabric is not only extremely tough, but it will not burn, and is easily cleaned with a damp cloth.

* * *

University of Miami researchers plan to cultivate tropical fruits, now growing wild in Florida, on a large scale for U. S. markets. Experiments will be made to discover the most favorable conditions for growing the plants and the best varieties to develop. Some day we may find such fruits as the carambola, sapodilla, or the sapote in our grocery stores.

* * *

Great Gull Island, 17 acres of rocky land located at the entrance to Long Island Sound, New York, was recently given by the U. S. government to the American Museum of Natural History. It is to be used as a wild life retreat.

The lonely land is one of the finest nesting places for terns (a gull-like bird) on the Atlantic seaboard, and the museum plans to make extensive studies of their habits. Studies will also be made of small birds, and of butterflies and dragonflies.

* * *

Geologists at California Institute of Technology have discovered two mammoth earthquake faults (breaks in the earth). Each fault is deeper than the length of the famous San Andreas fault in California which stretches from San Francisco to below Los Angeles.

One fault is in the South Pacific and extends from the island of Tonga, near Samoa, to New Zealand. The other is along the west coast of South America.

* * *

General Electric Company has designed an electronic smoke detector to aid in the fight against "smog" in industrial areas. The new device accurately indicates the density of smoke issuing from a stack for a continuous period. With this information, factories can take steps to cut down the smoke in accordance with regulations.

* * *

The supersonic model X-2, a new fast airplane, is expected to get too hot in flight for the duralumin usually used for plane construction. So its wings and fuselage will be covered with stainless steel. This craft, even speedier than the X-1 which flew faster than the speed of sound a year ago, is being built by Bell Aircraft Corporation.

* * *

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that waste gas from the Qatif oil field, near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, can produce enough commercial fertilizer to supply the needs of 20 eastern countries now affected by a shortage. Natural gas, which is sometimes mixed with oil pumped from the ground, is often burned as waste, but a high grade commercial fertilizer can be produced from the gas at a low cost. Plans are under way to construct a fertilizer plant at Qatif oil field soon.

—By DOROTHY ADAMS.

Careers for Tomorrow --- *The Secretary*

SHORTHAND and typing are a kind of job insurance for young people. These twin skills may be used as the basis for a career in themselves, or they may enable one to find part-time jobs while preparing for some other work.

While the secretarial field is one that is occupied mainly by women, there are quite a few positions open for men, and most of them pay fairly high salaries.

One who studies stenographic subjects, whether in high school or later in a business school, should get a good start by learning to be accurate. Shorthand notes taken in a sloppy manner often cannot be read, and typing poorly done is worse than useless.

Learning to take shorthand and to type, however, is only the beginning of a career. One must develop other skills if he or she is to be assured of finding and holding a desirable secretarial position.

First of all, secretaries must be able to use English correctly. They must know the rules of punctuation and spelling, and the meanings of words. Many businessmen who dictate hurriedly rely on their secretaries to reword poor sentences and supply the correct punctuation. Often the secretary, especially one who has gained experience, is called upon to compose letters and handle correspondence independently.

Young people who go into business offices as stenographers should study the problems of the office. They should not, of course, be too aggressive,

and should not try to take on the duties of other employees. Nevertheless, the good secretary is one who can go beyond the job of taking dictation and can contribute to making an office run smoothly and efficiently.

This part of the work requires secretaries to be amateur psychologists. They should know their employers



A SECRETARY'S JOB can be very interesting

thoroughly so that they can find the best ways to help them. Often a busy executive does not like to keep up with annoying details. A good secretary will learn to know instinctively when certain matters can be brought to his attention and when the work should be postponed.

A secretary should emphasize the development of his or her own person-

ality. A pleasing voice, a friendly manner, and a neat personal appearance are extremely important. They are not only a basis for good feelings within an office, but they are important as a part of a firm's public relations. Often a secretary, particularly in a small office, must serve as a receptionist. Persons who come in for business purposes receive their first impression of the firm from the secretary.

Specialization is as important in the secretarial field as it is in other parts of the business world. Young persons who understand the technical terms used in medicine, law, chemistry, engineering, or some other subject can qualify for secretarial jobs in these fields. Salaries for such specialized positions are higher than those for general stenographers.

Beginning salaries in the secretarial field are not high. In smaller communities, a stenographer will probably not earn more than about \$20 or \$25 a week to start. Advancement and salary increases depend in large measure upon specialization and upon how proficient a secretary becomes. Salaries for most experienced secretaries in the larger cities vary from \$50 to \$75 a week. Specialized secretaries and court reporters may earn more than these amounts.

A college education is not necessary for a person who is planning to go into this work. Often, however, employers prefer secretaries with college degrees.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds - - Atom Through the Ages

RECENTLY the Atomic Energy Commission announced that it will build a nuclear power plant near Pocatello, Idaho. Scientists at the "reactor farm," as it is to be called, will experiment with the use of atomic power to drive engines and run machines. What is learned there may very well usher in a new phase of the Atomic Age in which we are now living.

For most people the Atomic Age began nearly four years ago—on August 6, 1945—when the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The world learned then that man had at last harnessed the tremendous power which was known to be locked up in nature's "building blocks."

Since that time we have heard more and more about the uses of atomic energy for peaceful, as well as military, purposes. Such great strides have been made in atomic research in the brief space of the last few years that people are inclined to think of the atom as a 20th century "discovery." But this is not the case.

Long years of research into the nature of atoms are behind what we know of them today. Hundreds and even thousands of experiments preceded each of the major discoveries that led finally to the development of the atomic bomb. In fact, if we want to learn about the earliest interest in atoms, we must go back to ancient Greece.

Twenty centuries ago, Greek philosophers speculated about the make-up of the universe. One scholar, Democritus, came closest to the truth

when he stated that matter is composed of tiny invisible particles. He believed that these particles could not be divided and so he called them "atoms," from two Greek words meaning "uncuttable."

Democritus's ideas were not very popular and gradually were forgotten. Men continued to wonder about the world in which they lived, but during the Middle Ages science advanced slowly. The alchemists held sway and, in their dimly lighted laboratories littered with strange vessels and parchment books, they spent their time trying to change "base" metals into gold. It was the beginning of the 19th cen-

tury before rapid advances began to be made in the fields of chemistry and physics.

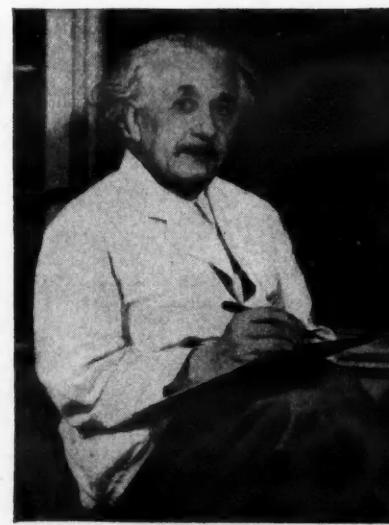
In 1803, John Dalton, an Englishman, revived Democritus's ancient theory about atoms and enlarged upon it. His ideas started a flood of research, but, until the end of the last century, scientists still believed that atoms were the smallest units in the universe and that they could not be divided.

The fallacy of this was discovered only by degrees toward the end of the 19th century when researchers began to learn more about the nature of atoms. Eventually they found that atoms really consist of a center, or nucleus, plus one or more electrons which revolve around it. And, in 1905, Albert Einstein of Germany suggested that atoms might be unlocked to produce unbelievably large amounts of energy.

For a long time chemists and physicists continued their study of atoms chiefly because of their own interest in scientific knowledge. But, in the years following World War I, the military possibilities of atomic energy captured the interest of the great nations of the world. An intense competition developed as each country strove to produce atomic weapons.

The United States succeeded first. But to say that one nation deserves the credit for the development of atomic energy would be untrue. Scientists from all over the world helped to lay the foundations of our present knowledge.

—By AMALIE ALVEY.



ALBERT EINSTEIN was one of the many scientists who helped to unlock the secret of the atom.

Study Guide

Atomic Energy

1. Why does Senator Brian McMahon think it might be wise for the United States to tell how many atomic bombs it has?

2. What, apparently, is the viewpoint of the Truman Administration's leading atomic energy officials toward McMahon's suggestion?

3. Why will it be extremely difficult to develop atomic engines for use in airplanes and small vehicles?

4. What are some of the purposes for which radioisotopes are being employed?

5. At what places are several of America's principal atomic energy installations and laboratories located?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not believe that the United States should reveal how many atom bombs it has made? Give reasons for your answer.

2. In your opinion, should this nation exert an increased amount of money and effort upon peacetime atomic energy development? Explain your position.

Australia

1. What is said to be Australia's leading problem?

2. Why is the central part of Australia a desert? In which section of the country do most of the people live?

3. Briefly describe the northern part of the island-continent.

4. What are two jobs that must be done if the Northern Territory is to develop into a thriving area?

5. How is Australia turning a wasteland in the southern part of the country into a "blooming" region?

6. What "top secret" project is underway in Australia?

7. Describe some of the forms of plant and animal life that are native to the country.

8. Briefly discuss Australia's position in international affairs.

Discussion

Do you or do you not think that Australia's immigration policy is a wise one? Give reasons for your position.

Miscellaneous

1. What two factors have helped to shape the character of the Swiss people?

2. What political office different from his present one may Thomas Dewey soon try to obtain?

3. List some of the problems which the Big Four expect to discuss at their Paris meeting.

4. Briefly describe the political views generally held by members of the Canadian political party which Prime Minister St. Laurent heads.

5. What recent statements of Argentina's President Peron are being carefully studied by U. S. businessmen?

6. Describe present labor conditions in Alaska.

References

"A New Job for the Atom," by Gerald Wendt, *Harper's Magazine*, May 1949. Writer contends that atomic energy could revolutionize industry and agriculture in many parts of the world, if secrecy in research for military purposes were not believed necessary.

"Europe's Gentle Atom," by Ladislao Farago, *United Nations World*, February 1949. Scandinavia develops atomic research for peaceful purposes.

"The Land Down Under," by Edwin Muller, *Reader's Digest*, August 1948. Good discussion of Australia.

"Australia," by Marc T. Greene, *United Nations World*, March 1949. Promise and problems of the nation.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) refer again to committee;
2. (b) made clear; 3. (b) court orders;
4. (a) supported by evidence; 5. (d) abundant; 6. (b) determining.